

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ST-01 SY-04 /015 W

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R 280650Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2795

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 745

DEPT FOR NEA/EX, OPR/ST, O/SY/FO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASUP, SY

SUBJ: OFFICIAL VEHICLES FOR EMBASSY DAMASCUS

REF: A. STATE 257744; B. DAMASCUS 1925; C. STATE 248886

1. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS RECONSIDERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO REDUCE THE EMBASSY'S VEHICLE COMPLIMENT BY ONE SEDAN AS PROPOSED IN REFTEL A.

2. EMBASSY DAMASCUS HAS EXPANDED APPRECIABLY DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS AND OUR ACTIVITIES NOW REQUIRE VEHICULAR SUPPORT EXCEEDING OUR PRESENT RESOURCES. NOT ONLY HAS OUR STAFF INCREASED BUT THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL VISITORS WHO REQUIRE MOTOR POOL SUPPORT IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THEIR MISSION GROWS WITH EACH PASSING WEEK. UNTIL RECENTLY OUR GOVERNMENT OWNED VEHICLE SHORT FALL HAS BEEN MADE UP BY UTILIZING THE FOLLOW-CAR PROVIDED TO THE POST PER REFTEL C. THE RECENTLY ARRIVED RSO, HOWEVER, HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE FOLLOW CAR BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE ORIGINALLY INTENDED AND IT IS THEREFORE NO LONGER AVAILABLE FOR NORMAL MOTOR POOL PURPOSES.

3. AT THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, NO AIRLINE SERVICE EXISTS BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS AND AMMAN. THIS MEANS THAT THE EMBASSY MUST PROVIDE LONG DISTANCE MOTOR TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN THESE POSTS FOR COURIER

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RUNS, TRANSPORTING OFFICIAL VISITORS, TRANSPORTA-

TION FOR MEDICAL CARE, AND OFFICIAL TRAVEL BY
OFFICERS BETWEEN THESE TWO POSTS.

4. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, THE EMBASSY URGES THAT
ITS OFFICIAL VEHICLE COMPLEMENT BE INCREASED BY
ONE SEDAN. THE VEHICLE SHOULD HAVE AUTOMATIC TRANS-
MISSION, POWER STEERING, POWER BRAKE, AND FACTORY
AIR-CONDITIONING AND BE PAINTED IN A LIGHT COLOUR.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
MURPHY

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NNN

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